

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 155

By Burks

A RESOLUTION to commend Bobby and Jean Davis for their honorable and astute service to the people of Tennessee.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those estimable public servants who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Bobby and Jean Davis are two such estimable people who evince the greatest integrity and probity in all their chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, Jean Davis was born in Monroe, in Overton County, and was the only daughter born to William Alphonso Coleman and Beulah A. Smith Coleman; and

WHEREAS, Bobby Davis, the son of Cecil Davis, was raised in Harriman but moved to Cookeville in 1944; and

WHEREAS, Mr. and Mrs. Davis knew each other growing up and dated a bit in high school, but reconnected again when they were both attending the University of Tennessee at Memphis, where Jean was pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in nursing and Bobby was attending Pharmacy School; and

WHEREAS, when they re-established their relationship in college, Mr. Davis was six months shy of finishing pharmacy school and Mrs. Davis was a junior nursing student, so Mr. Davis stayed in Memphis and practiced pharmacy until Mrs. Davis graduated in 1958, at which time they returned to Cookeville; and

WHEREAS, upon their return to Cookeville, Bobby Davis was twenty-two and began working for his father at West Side Drug Store, where he became a partner in 1959 and, upon the downtown store's closing, he operated Medical Center Pharmacy until 1996, when he sold the store to Eckerd's Drug Company; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Davis served as a part-time pharmacist for Eckerd's until 2001 and, for the duration of Mr. Davis's career, Jean Davis maintained an estimable thirty-year career as a nurse; and

WHEREAS, when they first returned to Cookeville after college, Mrs. Davis worked briefly at the local hospital until the birth of their first child, Kimberly Ann, in 1958, and, about three and a half years later, their son, William Cecil, was born, both of whom grew up to become pharmacists; and

WHEREAS, in the early 1960s, Jean Davis began working part-time at night in Cookeville's small hospital and, from 1971-72, she served as a clinical instructor of a practical nursing program at Cookeville General Hospital; she later worked at Cookeville High School, where she served for five years as an instructor for health occupations; and

WHEREAS, in 1973, Mrs. Davis began employment with the Putnam County Health Department, which she served for most of her career, eventually becoming a staff nurse and then a supervisor; and

WHEREAS, with a determination to end her nursing career on a less stressful note, Jean Davis accepted a position in 1990 as the Director of Student Health Services at Tennessee Technological University, the position in which she remained until her much deserved retirement in 1995; and

WHEREAS, from 1967-73, at just thirty-one years old, Bobby Davis was elected to serve two, three-year terms as the mayor of Cookeville, which began his long, successful career in local politics and has led him to serve numerous other positions over the years, including as President of the Cookeville Regional Medical Foundation, as a member of the board of the Cookeville History Museum, and as a member of a Chamber of Commerce committee; and

WHEREAS, in the 1980s, Jean Davis became increasingly interested in local politics as well and, in 1985, she became the second woman to ever serve on the Cookeville General Hospital board of trustees; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Davis finished her seven-year term on the hospital board to high praise from her colleagues and the community in 1992 and, in 1994, she became Cookeville's first female mayor, serving in that position until 1998 and later seeing duty as vice-mayor as well; and

WHEREAS, alongside her husband, Jean Davis has also served on the board of the Cookeville History Museum and the Putnam County Health Council, and she has served on a Chamber of Commerce committee; and

WHEREAS, the Davises' remarkable success as public servants and civic leaders is directly attributable to their reliance on the time-honored values of hard work and common sense and their uncommon ability to work well with people from all walks of life; and

WHEREAS, now in their seventies, Mr. and Mrs. Davis have enjoyed more than fifty years of marriage, most of which they have spent in their present home, and they enjoy playing golf, working in their yard, and Mrs. Davis has a deep passion for wildflowers; and

WHEREAS, they are extremely giving people who often reach out with compassion to people whom life has treated unkindly, and they epitomize the ideal of consummate professionals, dedicated public servants, and reliable friends and neighbors; and

WHEREAS, Bobby and Jean Davis are wholly committed to the noble precepts of public service that have earned Tennessee recognition as the "Volunteer State," and they should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby commend Bobby and Jean Davis for their honorable and astute service to the good people of Tennessee and salute their unswerving commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.